

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Applicant has submitted a new complete claim set showing insertions indicated by underlining and deletions indicated by strikeouts and/or double bracketing.

Please amend pending claims 1-26 as noted below.

1. (Original) Method for cracking disk-like or plate-like production parts along a prespecified fracture plane, whereby the respective production part is clamped on both sides of the fracture plane between clamping jaw pairs and the clamping jaw pairs are moved towards each other under the action of force in such a way that the production part along the fracture plane is subjected to a tensile stress alternately on the upper side and underside.
2. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the tensile stress is generated by a periodically changing rocking motion of the clamping jaw pairs towards each other.
3. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the periodically changing rocking motion of the clamping jaw pairs is superimposed by a tensile force which pulls the jaw pairs apart essentially perpendicular to the fracture plane.
4. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the flexural fatigue stress generated by the periodically changing rocking motion of the clamping jaw pairs in the area of the fracture plane of the production part is introduced in a continuously increasing way.
5. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the flexural fatigue stress generated by the periodically changing rocking motion of the

clamping jaw pairs in the area of the fracture plane of the production part is introduced in a pulsating way.

6. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the tensile force is continuously increased.
7. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the tensile force is introduced in a pulsating way.
8. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the frequency of the motion is between 0.1 and 10 Hz.
9. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 7, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the frequency of the tensile force is between 0.1 and 10 Hz.
10. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~one or more of claims 1 to 9~~, ~~characterised in that~~ claim 1, wherein the force for the motion is generated hydraulically.
11. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 3, ~~6, 7 or 9~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the tensile force is generated hydraulically.
12. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~one or more of claims 1 to 5 and 8 and 10~~, ~~characterised in that~~, claim 1, wherein, to generate the motion relative to an immovable base, both jaw pairs are moved towards each other.
13. (Currently amended) Method according to ~~one or more of claims 1 to 5 and 8 and 10~~, ~~characterised in that~~, claim 1, wherein, to generate the motion relative to an immovable base, one jaw pair is immovable and the other jaw pair is moved.

14. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the production part is provided with a fracture notch on the upper side and/or the underside in the area of the fracture plane.
15. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 14 for cracking a disk-like production part, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the fracture notch encloses an angle relative to the radius.
16. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 15, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the angle is between 5° and 30°.
17. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 14 ~~or 15~~, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the fracture notch on the upper side of the production part is offset relative to the fracture notch on the underside.
18. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the free ends of the clamping jaw pairs extend from opposite sides to as far as the fracture plane.
19. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 18, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the fracture notches are created by cutting edges, which are arranged in the area of the free ends of the jaws of one of the two jaw pairs.
20. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 19 for cracking a disk-like production part, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the cutting edges enclose an angle relative to the radius of the disk-like production part.
21. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 20, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the angle is between 5° and 30°.

22. (Currently amended) Device for performing the method according to ~~one or more of the preceding claims 1 to 21~~claim 1,
- with a base~~(1)~~,
 - a first jaw pair movably-mounted on the base,
 - a second jaw pair movably-mounted on the base,
 - a drive~~(6)~~, with which the movably-mounted jaw pairs can be moved periodically to and fro, and
 - a control unit with which the frequency and force of the to and fro movement of the two jaw pairs can be adjusted.
23. (Currently amended) Device for performing the method according to ~~one or more of the preceding claims 1 to 21~~claim 1,
- with a base~~(1)~~,
 - a first jaw pair immovably-mounted~~(2)~~ on the base~~(1)~~,
 - a second jaw pair~~(3)~~ movably-mounted on the base~~(1)~~,
 - a drive~~(6)~~, with which the movably-mounted second jaw pair can be moved periodically to and fro, and
 - a control unit with which the frequency and force of the to and fro movement of the second jaw pair can be adjusted.
24. (Currently amended) Device according to claim 22 ~~or 23, characterised in that~~, wherein the drive~~(6)~~ comprises a hydraulic unit with at least one pump~~(11)~~, at least one valve arrangement~~(9)~~ and at least one actuator cylinder~~(7, 8)~~, which act on one or both jaw pairs.
25. (Currently amended) Device according to claim 24, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the valve arrangement~~(9)~~ comprises a hydraulic proportional, servo or control valve.
26. (Currently amended) Device according to claim 24 ~~or 25, characterised in that~~, wherein the valve arrangement comprises a controllable pressure-reducing valve~~(11)~~.